Government of West Bengal. Many of the issues highlighted in the Report of the Committee have also been deliberated in detail during the stakeholders' conference on tea held in New Delhi on 16th and 17th September, 2004. A Tea Advisory Committee has been set up to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan prepared to follow up the recommendations that emerged at the conference.

Price subsidy scheme for small tea growers

2940. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government introduced price subsidy scheme for small tea growers for a period of four months; and

(b) if so, how many growers benefited from the scheme and how much money was spent for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Approximately 48,600 growers have benefited from the scheme. An amount of Rs.20.86 crores has been disbursed as subsidy as on date.

Invoking Anti-Dumping Clause against Chinese silk

2941. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to invoke the anti-dumping clause against the Chinese silk industry to protect the interests of India's domestic silk industry;

(b) whether Government have taken up the issue with the WTO and also on a bilateral basis with the Chinese Government;

(c) if so, what is the response of the Chinese Government;

(d) what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) On the basis of an application filed by the cottage/filature/multiend silk reelers associations